

**International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
Michigan State Conference  
Testimony before the Senate Regulatory Reform Committee on House Bill 4561  
April 26, 2012**

The IBEW Michigan State Conference represents over 15,000 electricians across the state of Michigan. We are very concerned regarding issues related to the construction code process due to the impact it has on the safety of our members and the general public.

We are opposed to House Bill 4561 because we fear that moving from a 3-year to a 6-year construction code cycle will impede the ability to implement the most up-to-date construction practices and equipment. The current 3-year cycle matches the national construction code cycle. This ensures that Michigan residents will always have the most advanced industry standard for construction of their homes and places of business.

A 6-year cycle will also cause confusion for contractors and inspectors whenever new technologies or practices are introduced. Even under the current 3-year cycle, it can take over a year for the state to adopt changes made in the National Electrical Code. A 6-year cycle could mean that construction methods that increase safety and efficiency may be put off in Michigan for many years.

A major troubling issue for the IBEW is how this change will impact our apprenticeship programs. If national codes go un-adopted in Michigan for 4-5 years, we could have entire classes of apprentices being instructed on outdated practices. This will make it much more difficult for apprentice and journeyman electricians to find work in other states.

The current 3-year code cycle in Michigan is working well and should not be changed.